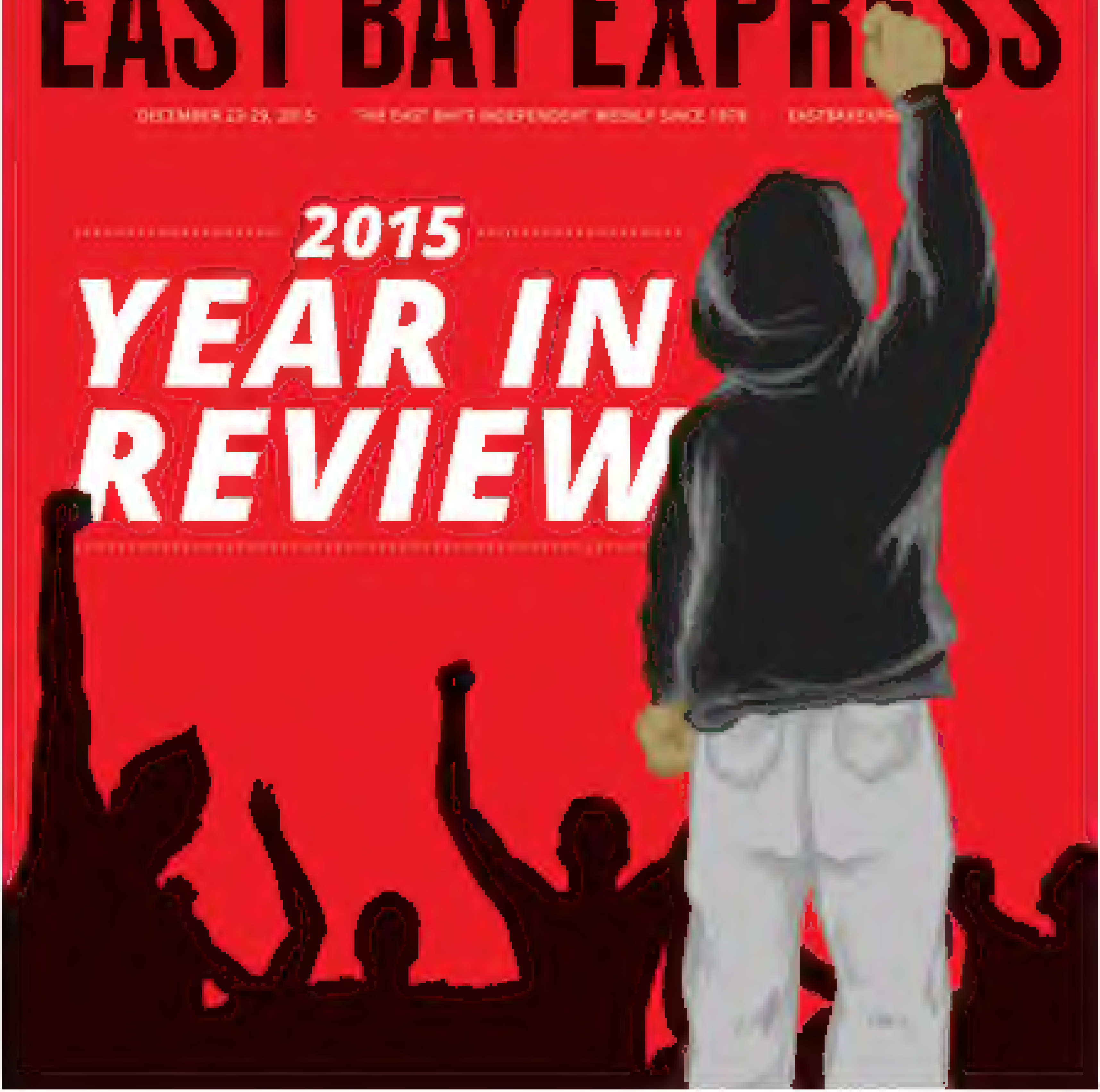
EAST BAY EXPRESS

DECEMBER 23-29, 2015 · "THE EAST BAY'S INDEPENDENT WEEKLY SINCE 1978"

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW





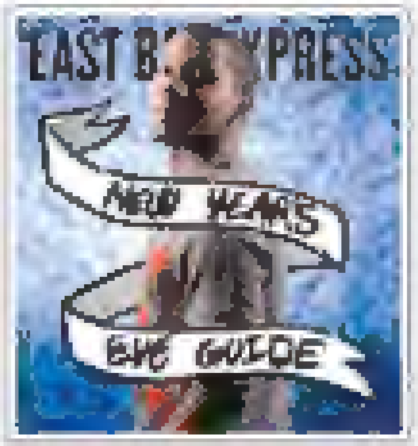
CONTENTS

EAST BAY EXPRESS




Sofie
A farmhouse ale aged
in wine barrels
with an abundance of
hand-zested oranges.
Sofie
GOOSE
ISLAND

NEWS&OPINION



LETTERS

We Need to Prioritize Human Needs

[illegible]

Oh, the Irony

[illegible]

[illegible]

Let's Find a Middle Ground

[illegible]

Clarification Needed

[illegible]

Corrections

[illegible]



It's Time for Brown to Break Silence on Coal

The governor has a reputation for being a climate leader, but he has refused to take a stance on the most important local environmental issue this year.

By Robert Gammon

Jerry Brown made quite a splash at the UN Climate Change talks in Paris this month. The international press fawned over California's governor, lavishing praise on him for supposedly being a world leader in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. But environmentalists in California have long known that while Brown talks a good game on climate change, his actual record is far from green. The governor, for example, has steadfastly refused to ban fracking in the state and has ignored calls for California to ban oil companies like other states do.

And in Oakland, which is still Brown's official city of residence, the governor has remained steadfastly silent on the most important local environmental issue of 2015: the controversial plan to build a coal shipping terminal at the former Army Base at the Port of Oakland. The terminal, which is part of a $450 million project spearheaded by local developer Phil Tagami, would ship millions of tons of coal mined in Utah and other states to ports in Asia each year. The project, as a result, would not only greatly add to greenhouse gas emissions worldwide but also threatens to worsen air pollution in West Oakland, a largely low-income area that already suffers from some of the dirtiest air in the region.

Brown's spokesperson Gareth Lacy said on Monday that Brown had no comment on the coal shipping facility.

Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, who is friends with Brown and served as an aide to him when he was mayor of Oakland, said in an interview that she was "disappointed" about his silence on coal. Schaaf, who is a staunch opponent of the coal terminal, said that in Paris, when the issue of coal came up, Brown dodged the subject by saying it was up to the United States to create a "national policy" on coal.

"I was disappointed in his answer," Schaaf said. "If we wait for national policymakers to get their act together, it'll be too late."

Schaaf also noted that the governor's response contradicted their reason for traveling to Paris in the first place. Schaaf and Brown, along with other city and state officials, were on hand to tout the abilities of local governments to impact climate policy around the globe.

So why is Brown ducking the issue of coal in Oakland? Although the governor has long had a reputation for being a cautious politician who shies away from controversial issues, coal is not that controversial — at least not in California. The state has no coal industry to speak of, and California's utilities long ago shifted away from the dirty fossil fuel and now depend largely on natural gas, hydroelectric power, and renewables. And in October, Brown even signed a law requiring the state's two major pension funds to stop investing in coal companies. Coal, in short, has virtually no impact on the state's economy — and no effect on California politics.

So what is causing Brown's reticence? Perhaps it has to do with his longtime relationship with Tagami. The two are close friends and real estate investment partners in Oakland. In fact, Brown and his wife Anne Gust were married in Tagami's Rotunda Building in 2005. Brown also houses his charter school, the Oakland School for the Arts, in the Tagami-redeveloped Fox Theater in Uptown. And it was Brown who originally made Tagami the point man on the Army Base redevelopment authority when Brown was mayor of Oakland.

Unfortunately for Oakland, there may not be a lot the city can do to block the coal terminal unless Brown steps in. Schaaf, who has said that Tagami originally promised that the terminal would not include coal, noted that the city's only hope may be to use a clause in its contract with Tagami that concerns the public health impacts of the project. The clause would allow the city to modify the deal if the project puts either workers or neighbors "in a condition substantially dangerous to their health or safety."

Schaaf also argued that the state legislature and Brown should establish a ban on all coal shipments from California. Her proposal includes a grandfather clause for existing ports that ship coal that would let those ports phase out their shipments over time.

State Senator Loni Hancock, who represents Berkeley and Oakland, is also adamantly opposed to the coal terminal plan. "In light of California's climate goals, this would be a tremendous step back — a tremendous blow to our reputation," she said in an interview.

Hancock recently sent a letter to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) asking it to reconsider its 2013 approval of a $242 million grant to the Army Base redevelopment project. "Coal was not part of the project approved by [the CTC]," she noted.

Schaaf pointed out, however, that the city can't afford to lose any portion of the CTC grant. She and other opponents of the project, including councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan, Dan Kalb, and Lynette Gibson McElhaney, just want the new terminal at the former Army Base to exclude coal, and to instead rely on other bulk products, she said.

And the best way to achieve that would be for Brown to come off the sidelines and tell his friend Tagami that shipping coal through Oakland is a nonstarter. After all, Mr. Governor, that's what a real climate leader would do. Right?

Send letters to letters@eastbayexpress.com.



YEAR IN REVIEW

A Year of Development, Displacement, and Inaction

The East Bay's housing crunch reached crisis levels in 2015 — and the lack of new affordable units and proactive policy solutions has many worried that the inequity will only worsen next year.

By Darwin BondGraham and Sam Levin

New Projects


Festive, convenient holiday shopping at more than 65 shops and specialty stores with dining options galore. Strolling carolers to set the mood and Santa on site for the little ones.
Visit www.baystreetemeryville.com for a complete holiday activities schedule
Located off Highway 80 in Emeryville
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Old Navy
Victoria's Secret
Pottery Barn
bebe
H&M
Uniqlo
L'Occitane
Lush
Fossil
West Elm
Barnes & Noble
Gap
Athleta
And much more!
BAY STREET EMERYVILLE

for developers — most notably with the approval this month of an 18-story, 302-unit project at 2211 Harold Way in downtown. Though the residential project is entirely market-rate, the developer, HSR Berkeley Investments, has agreed to pay $10.9 million for affordable housing in the city. Developer Nautilus Group also moved forward with construction of a high-profile project, called Garden Village, on Dwight Way and Fulton Street near UC Berkeley. Ten percent of the building's 77 units will be affordable, and the project is unique in that it includes no on-site parking. That means it's a more environmentally friendly project that doesn't encourage driving and would be a good match for students and others who prefer to walk, bike, or take public transit.

Throughout the East Bay, cities must rapidly build more low-income housing that the most vulnerable residents can afford if they want to curb the crisis, said Louis Chicoine, executive director of Abode Services, a nonprofit that helps homeless people find housing. "The equation is just getting more and more upside down in terms of how many people need affordable housing and how much stock is available," he said. "We're going to see more people on the streets for sure — and more desperation."

Policy Debates

According to the State Controller's Office, former redevelopment agencies in Alameda County allocated half a billion dollars for housing between 2001 and 2011 and built 10,237 affordable housing units. But Governor Jerry Brown eliminated redevelopment in 2011, thereby ending the single biggest affordable housing program in California. The biggest housing policy shift in 2015 was probably the passage of AB 2, which Brown signed into law in September. It allows cities to establish Community Revitalization Investment Authorities (CRIAs). And another new state law that took effect this year allows cities to create Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs).

CRIAs and EIFDs will have the power to buy and sell land, issue bonds, incur debt, and build housing. According to Dan Carrigg, legislative director of the League of California Cities, no local government has established a CRIA or EIFD yet, but lots of cities and counties are talking to each other. "The tools of redevelopment are back in the basket," he said.

Another major housing policy development was the California Supreme Court's ruling in June that local governments can require homebuilders to set aside a certain percent of homes or condos at affordable prices. It's known as "inclusionary zoning," and San Jose's version of the law came under fire in court by the California Building Industry Association, which called inclusionary zoning an "unconstitutional taking" of property. The court ruled, however, that it is within a city's police powers to ensure a broad mix of housing for all income groups. So as the single-family and condo construction markets heat up in 2016, cities with inclusionary housing policies will be able to ensure more new housing is affordable.

Inclusionary zoning is still illegal for rental units, however, due to a 2009 state appeals court decision that said inclusionary zoning interfered with landlords' rights under Costa Hawkins, a state law that limits rules on rental units. Several East Bay cities have gotten around this by assessing impact fees on market-rate rental housing and allowing developers to forgo paying the fee if they include affordable rentals in their buildings. For example, in 2015, Emeryville enacted an impact fee of $28,000. Berkeley also has an impact fee of $28,000. And Albany, Fremont, Hayward, San Leandro, and Union City are joining with Alameda County to conduct a study, likely to be approved in 2016, necessary to assess impact fees of their own.

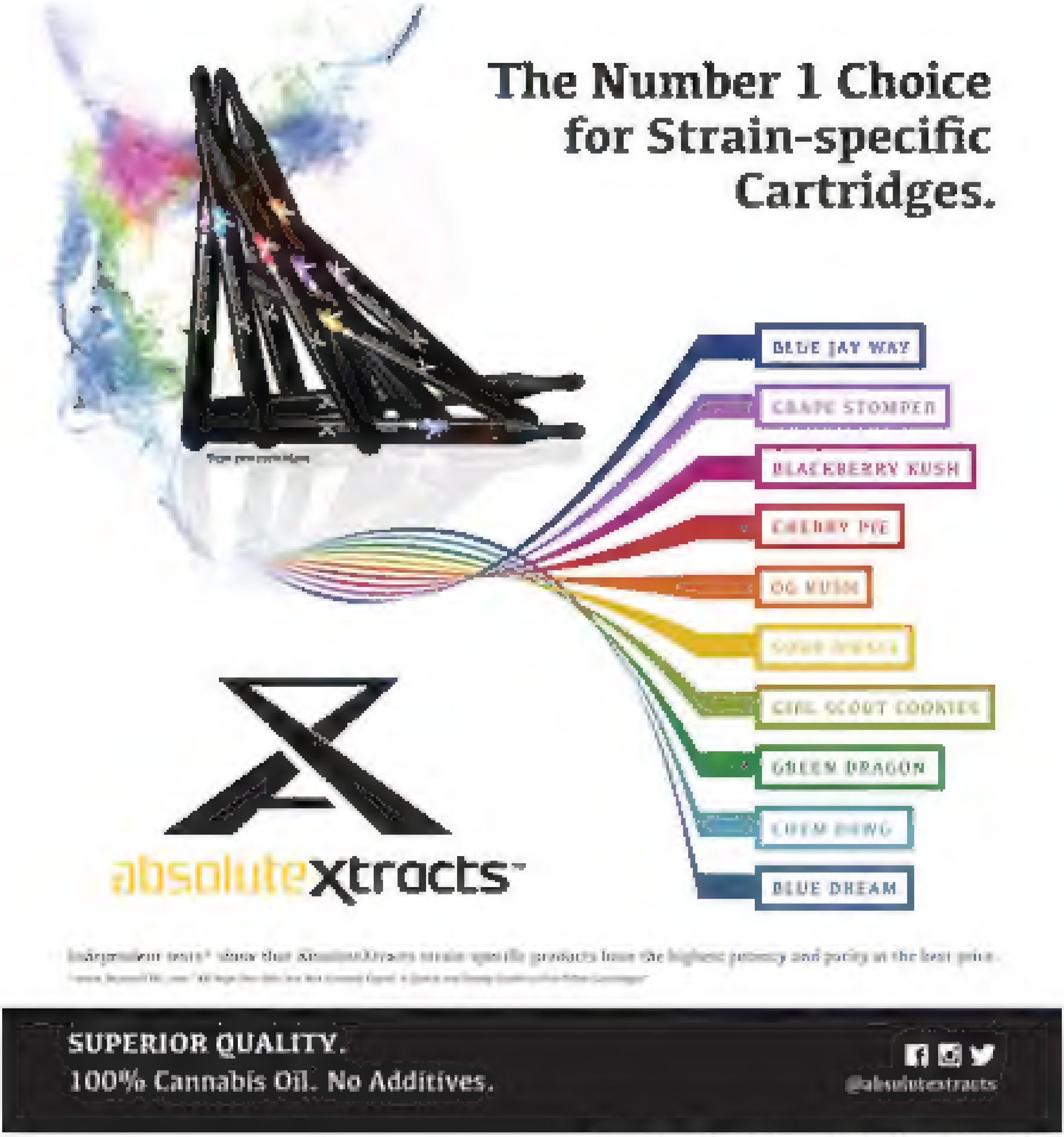
But the biggest East Bay city, Oakland, has been slow to adopt an impact fee. Oakland is also the only city in the county that doesn't have an inclusionary zoning ordinance. In 2015, affordable housing became the single biggest, and most divisive political issue in Oakland, partly because of the perception that the city hasn't been doing enough.

One battle in 2015 that encapsulated the divide between the city's affordable housing advocates and its development boosters involved publicly owned property on East 12th Street, near Lake Merritt. The city had planned to sell the parcel to a developer for construction of a luxury apartment tower, but activists battled against it, and even shut down a city council meeting to prevent a vote. The city council nullified the deal after the *Express* reported on a leaked legal opinion written by the Oakland City Attorney's Office that stated that the property sale would violate the Surplus Land Act, which requires public land to be offered first to affordable housing developers. Currently, the city is negotiating with five development teams, all of which are proposing some mix of affordable housing on the site.

"The East 12th Street campaign created a really important conversation about what local governments legally and morally should be doing with public land," said David Zisser, a staff attorney with Public Advocates, a nonprofit public interest law firm.

But there is widespread agreement that the affordable housing crisis can't be solved entirely at the local level. State laws need to change, and governments need to cooperate regionally. But Governor Brown has not made affordable housing a priority of his administration. In 2015, he vetoed several bills that could have raised billions for affordable housing construction, including AB 35, which would have raised billions through a tax credit. SB 2, meanwhile, would have raised $500 million a year for affordable housing by tacking a $75 fee on the recording of real estate sales documents. But that bill didn't receive the votes it needed to advance to the governor's desk. Also in early 2015, the East Bay region was abuzz with talk of governments joining forces to form a regional housing bond to raise hundreds of millions or even billions, but nothing came of it. All of which means that the housing affordability crisis will continue to be the issue in 2016.

Send a letter to letters@eastbayexpress.com


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Black Lives Matter protesters marching against police brutality in Oakland in 2014. [illegible]

YEAR IN REVIEW

The Growth of Black Lives Matter

After a wave of protests shook the streets of Oakland and Berkeley, activists have been hard at work enacting policy changes, building community networks, and practicing self-determination.

By Erin Baldassari

In the fall of 2014, two grand juries failed to indict white police officers in the deaths of unarmed Black men. The decisions in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island, New York were a clarion call for many who were fed up with the repeated loss of Black lives at the hands of police. Ferguson burned. The East Bay erupted. People took over city streets, shut down highways, and blocked public transit. Oakland police, in a report issued to the city council in March, counted 23 protests during a 40-day span, from November 24 to December 31, drawing nearly 10,000 people — not including demonstrations in Berkeley.

Though the heat of the uprisings has since cooled, the clamor for accountability has moved to city council meetings, community gathering spaces, and public forums. During the past year, activists have won policy changes, built and fortified community organizations, and kept the demands of the Black Lives Matter movement at the forefront of political conversations and popular culture. Despite this progress, all of the activists I spoke to recently said their work was far from over.

For Sagnika Bryant, national secretary of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and member of its Oakland chapter, the uprisings last year were just part of a series of demonstrations nationwide that began in the mid-Aughts with the response to the Jena Six — six Black teenagers who were arrested following the December 2006 beating of a white high school student in Jena, Louisiana. Five of the teens were initially charged with attempted murder, and more than 15,000 people rallied in [illegible], what they saw as unduly harsh treatment within the justice system. Bryant said that since then, incidents nearly every year have brought demonstrators out to the streets, including in the East Bay, where demonstrators protested following the 2009 shooting death of Oaklander Oscar Grant by BART police.

"Every year we've had something that's popped off. It's been building and building and building," Bryant said. "So, we look at it as a continuation of events, but more and more people are really coming to see what's going on."

An important outcome of the surge in protests last year — which began locally in November when a Ferguson grand jury decided not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown — was the growth of community organizations focused on advancing social justice that are more inclusive for women, queer, and trans people, Bryant said. He pointed to the Black Lives Matter group, which began in 2013 with an all-female leadership, as one example of women taking on high-ranking positions, traditionally dominated by men, in the Black liberation movement.

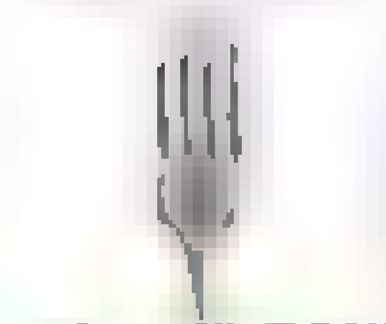
In Oakland, the group Black.Seed formed out of the Black Brunch protests — staged demonstrations that harkened back to the sit-ins of the Civil Rights movement and were a response to the non-indictments of Wilson and New York police Officer Daniel Pantaleo, whose chokehold of 43-year-old Eric Garner led to the Staten Island resident's death. The Black Brunch protests were a way to channel outrage over these events in a direct, nonviolent way and call attention to the lack of accountability for the officers involved. But the primary focus of Black.Seed has been to nourish its members and the community both spiritually and emotionally, said member Michael Jones.


Just Per Me

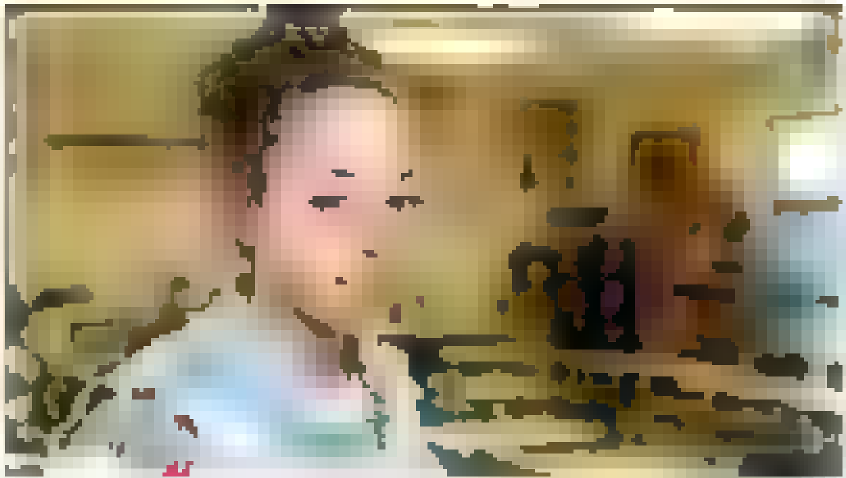


OCTOPUS

What The





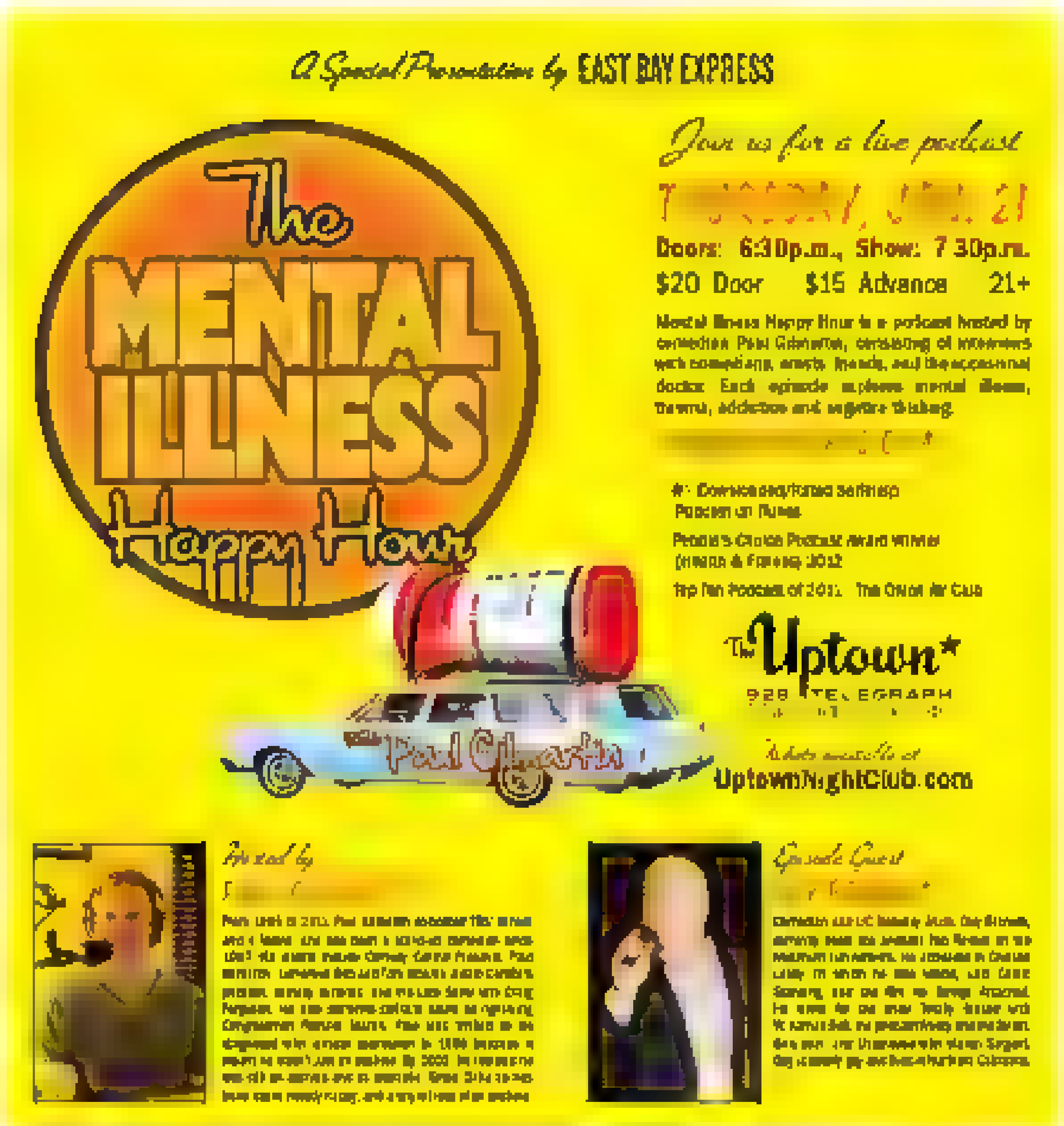


The East Bay Student Uprising

High school students spearheaded successful protests and rallies throughout 2015 — shaping local social justice movements and forcing administrators to rethink controversial decisions.

By Sam Levin

[illegible]



A Special Presentation by EAST BAY EXPRESS
The MENTAL ILLNESS Happy Hour
Join us for a live podcast
Doors: 6:30p.m., Show: 7:30p.m.
$20 Door $15 Advance 21+
The Uptown
928 TELEGRAPH
UptownNightClub.com



[illegible]

Labor's Positive Progress

Fueled by the growing concern over economic inequality, Bay Area unions in 2015 waged campaigns that not only benefited their members but other workers as well.

By Jay Youngdahl and Darwin BondGraham

[illegible]

HATE HAS NO BUSINESS HERE.

#HATEHASNOBIZHERE

We stand with our
MUSLIM COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

We stand with
REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS
in our community

All are WELCOME HERE.

Peb tos txais txhua tus

نحن نرحب بالجميع

Tous sont les bienvenus ici

欢迎各界人士

ਜੀ ਆਇਆਂ ਨੂੰ

Waan soo dhaweyneynaa dadka oo dhan

모든 여기에 오신 것을 환영합니다

Mọi người đều được chào đón ở đây.

Todos son bienvenidos

EAST BAY EXPRESS

A Look Ahead in Politics



Legislature

Alameda County

Oakland

Berkeley







Richmond

Alameda

San Leandro



Think indie



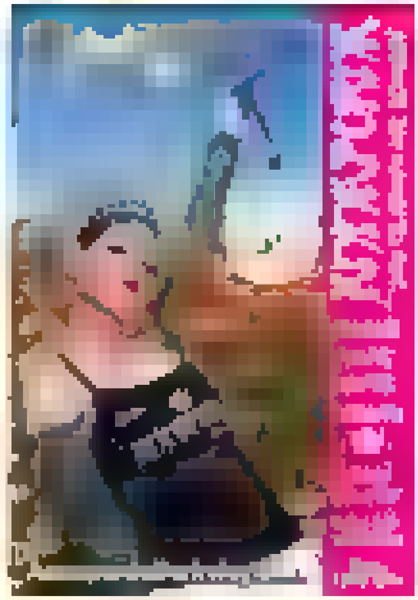






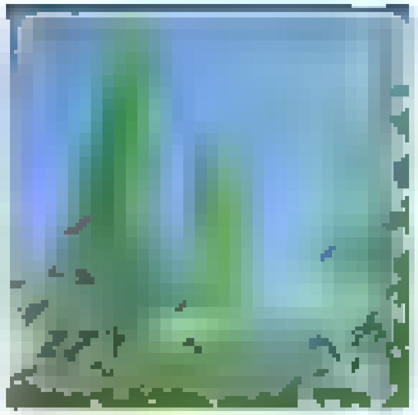








The Legalization Nation Index



California


openVAPE
GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES
Special Edition Battery



The Year of the Warriors

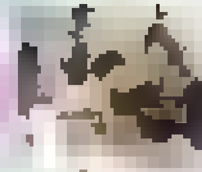
By Mark Anderson

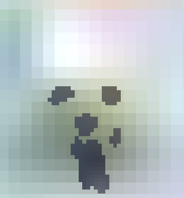

On behalf of the East Bay Express,
we'd like to wish the hard working crew that
prints our paper every week.
Happy Holidays

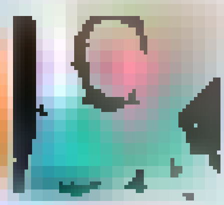
COMMUNITY MATTERS

A local nonprofit resource directory

EAST BAY EXPRESS

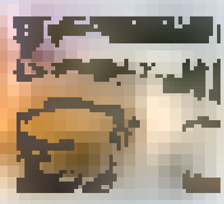
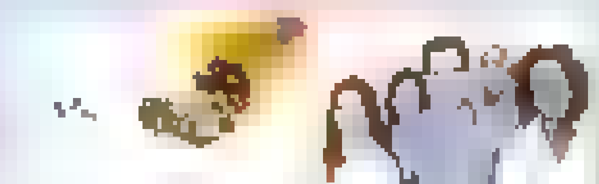


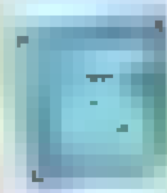
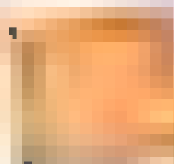


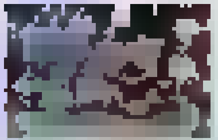






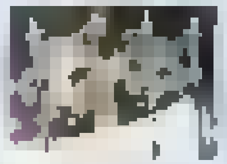



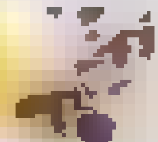



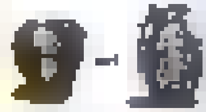
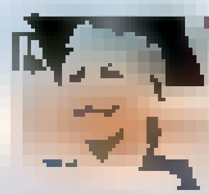














Experiments in Amplification: The Year in East Bay Art

This year, a drive to amplify marginalized voices coupled with an avant-garde inclination produced the best in East Bay art

By Sarah Burke

A Hole in Space (Oakland Redux)

Drifting Islands

Tender Points

Heavy Breathing

Visions from the Inside

That Winter the Wolf Came



CONGRATULATION TO LINA,

AGE 7, FROM BERKELEY! SHE IS THE WINNER OF THE EAST BAY EXPRESS COLORING CONTEST!

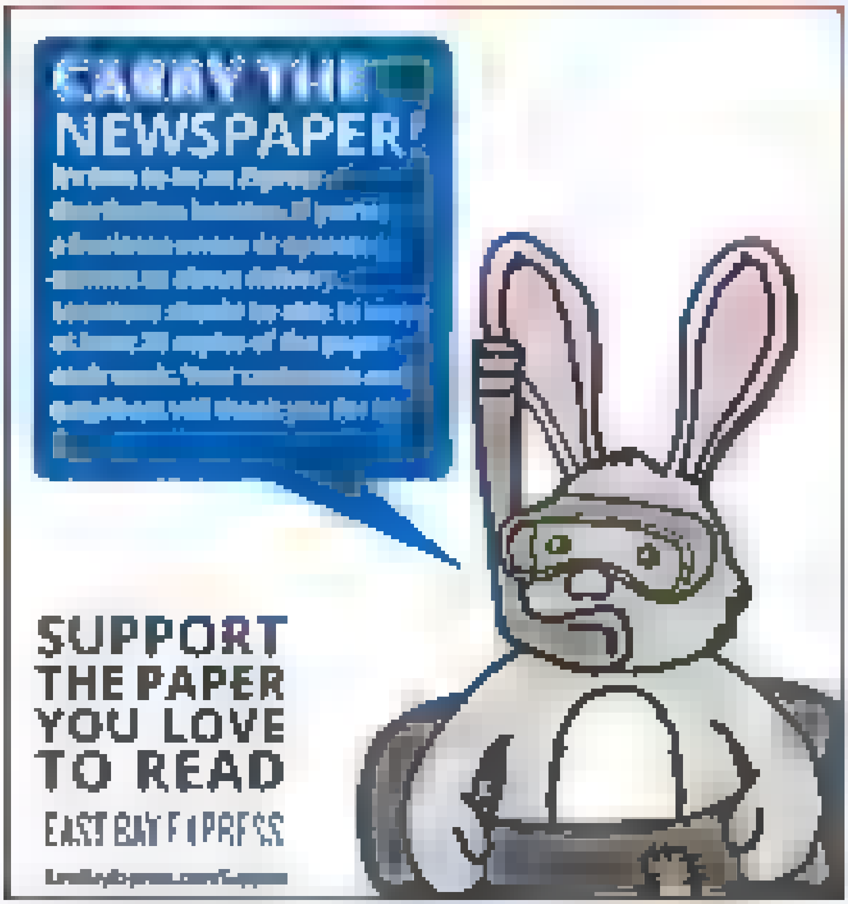




MATRIX 258
Tarek Atoui
Berkeley Art Museum

Some of Us Did Not Die
By Tammy Rae Carland
Land and Sea

Year-long Experimental Residency Program at Krowswork





The Year of the Food Court

How the unlikely ascendance of Swan's Market is helping to reshape the East Bay food scene.

By Luke Tsai







Top Fifteen Local Releases of 2015

Our music editor's favorite Bay Area mixtapes, albums, and EPs of the year — in no particular order.

By Nastia Voynovskaya

Bells Atlas
Hereafter

[illegible]

Lil B and Chance the Rapper
Free (Based Freestyle Mixtape)

[illegible]

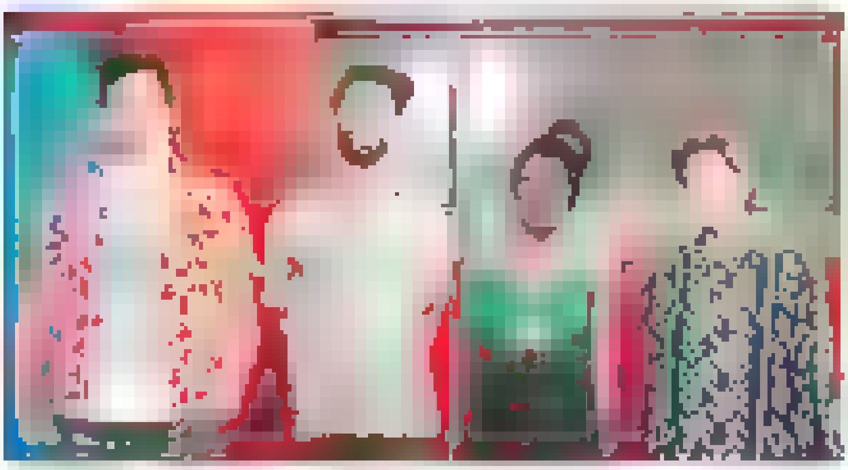
[illegible]

Mansion
Easy Life

[illegible]

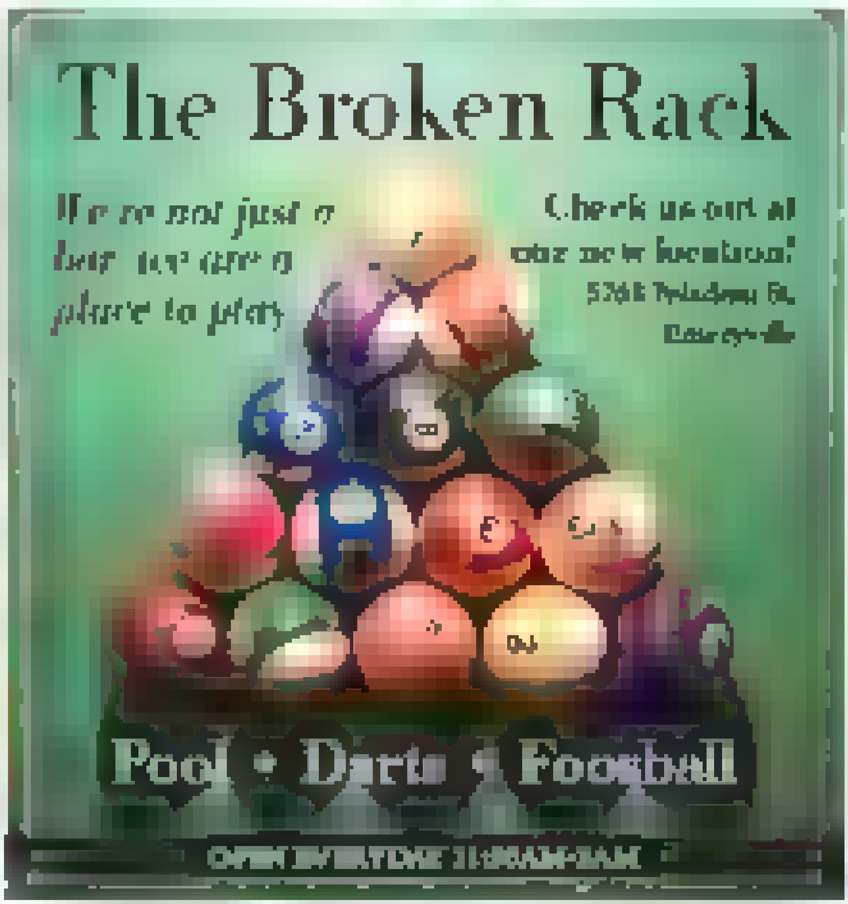
Kool John and P-Lo
Moneer

[illegible]



[illegible]





Botanist

Nef the Pharaoh

King Woman

Tia Monroe

Toner



Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith

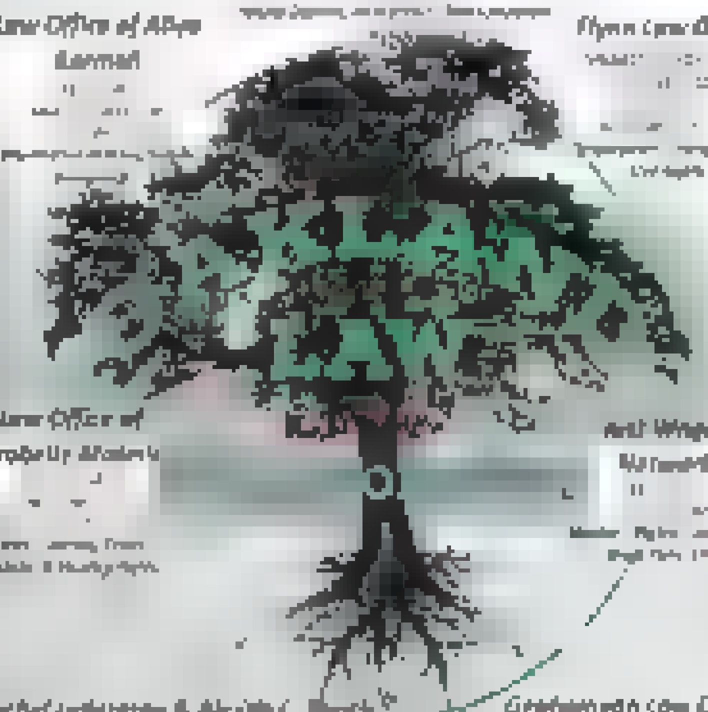
Berner and The Jacks

Sister Crayon

Techie Blood







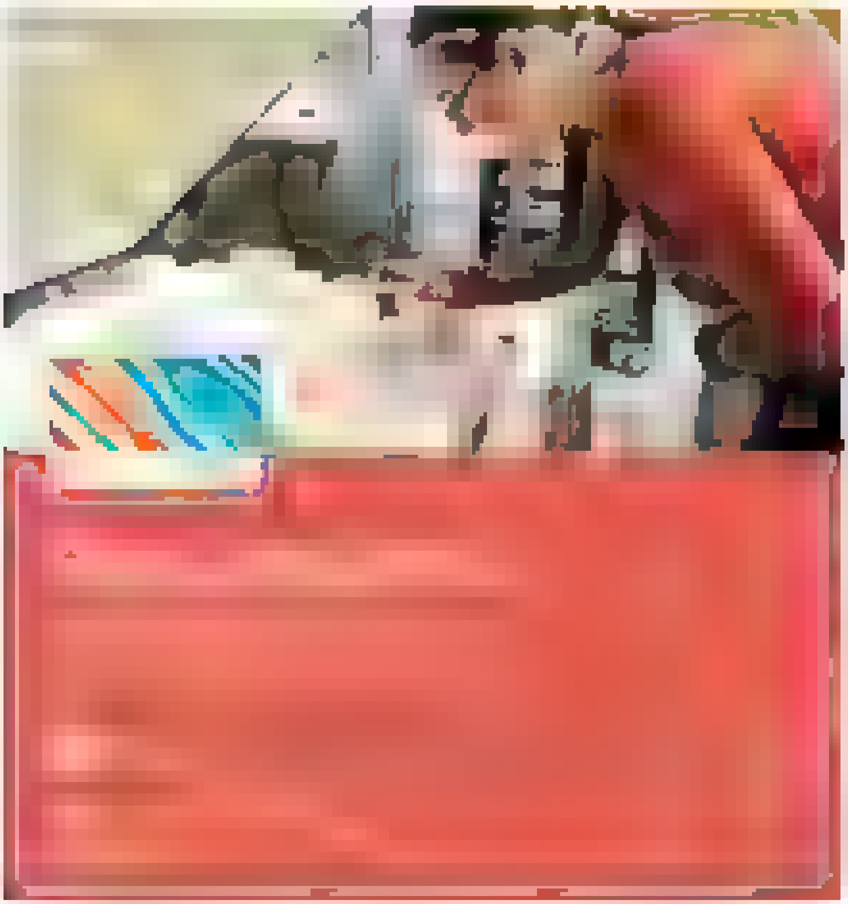

REVELATION IN FIT
EVERYONE
DESERVES
A BRA THAT
FITS


rare bird

Small Works







Art of the Earth

Unearthed at the Oakland Museum of California showcases the Japanese art of *suiseki*—collecting stones as sculptures.

By Sarah Burke



Courtesy Oakland Museum of California

Show Details

The Sentence Unseen Celebrating Resilience

[illegible]




NEED MORE DRAMA?
BERKELEY REP
Berkeley Rep


ART & OTHER TACTICS
MUSEUM
CRAFT
DESIGN

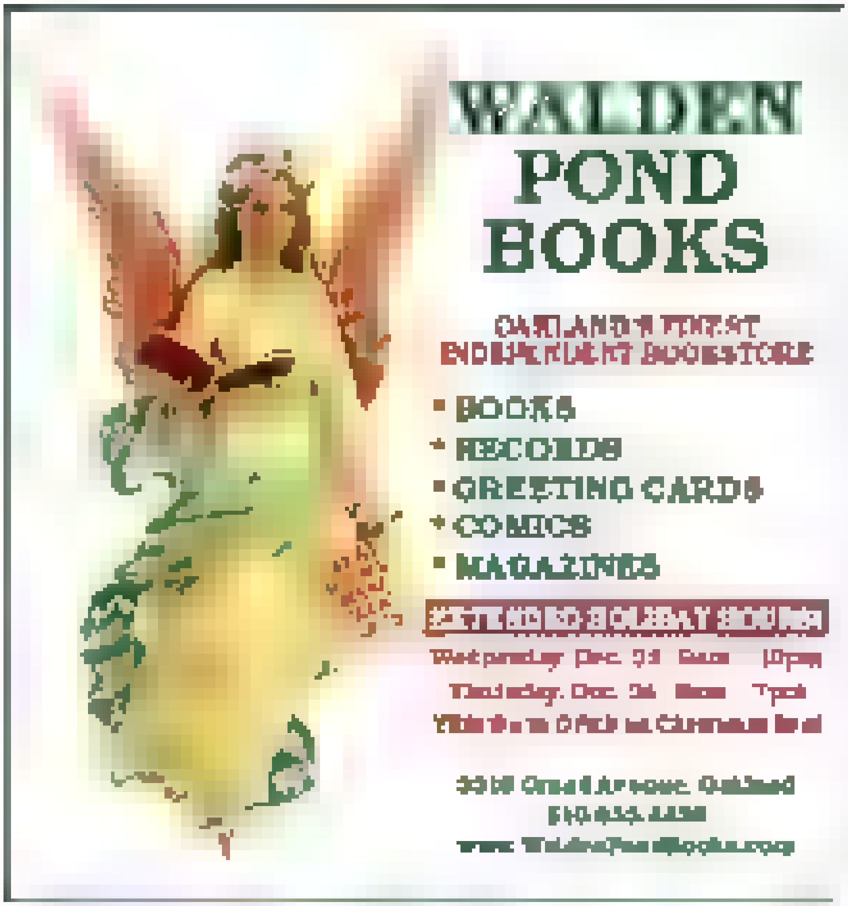

Tickets: $32 per seat





Progress for Whom?

Lower Bottom Playaz production of *Radio Golf* contains poignant parallels to Oakland's struggles with gentrification and displacement.





The Space Needler's Intergalactic Bar Guide



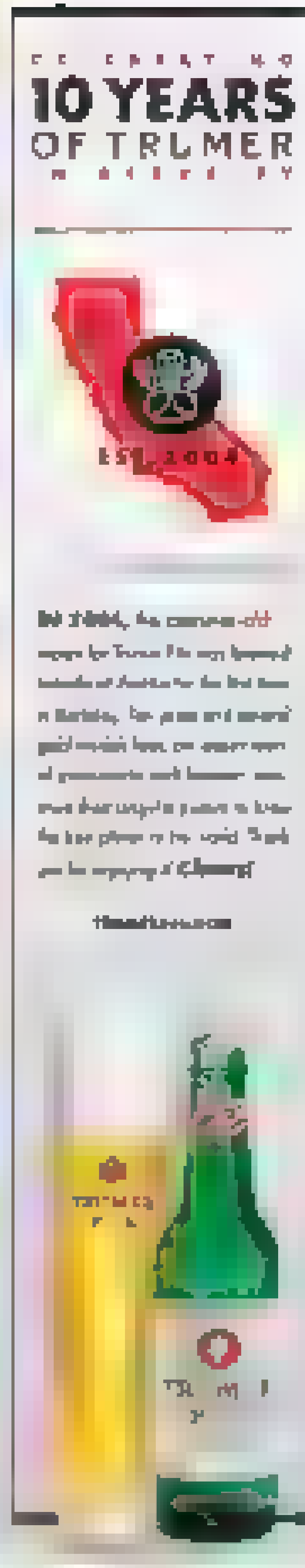


Aushak Gets an Update

The vibrant Angela's Kitchen shows off Afghan fusion dishes in an Alameda shopping plaza

By Luke Tsai








THE STAR
KITCHEN TO COUCH
The Star Delivers!
Online ordering only


More than JUST Ramen


PIEDMONT
GROCERY


COCKTAILS
&
CARTOONS









Restaurants on Park Street in Alameda

Burma Superstar

Doggy-Style Hot Dogs

East End Pizza Co.

Flavors of India

Habanas

Hang Ten Boiler

The Hobnob

Injera Restaurant

Kau Kau Corner

La Marcha

[illegible]

Cafe Kim Thuy

[illegible]

Tea House

[illegible]

La Pence Azul

[illegible]

Lola's Chicken Shack

[illegible]

Ole's Waffle Shop

[illegible]

Mama Papa Lithuania Restaurant and

Scolari's Good Eats

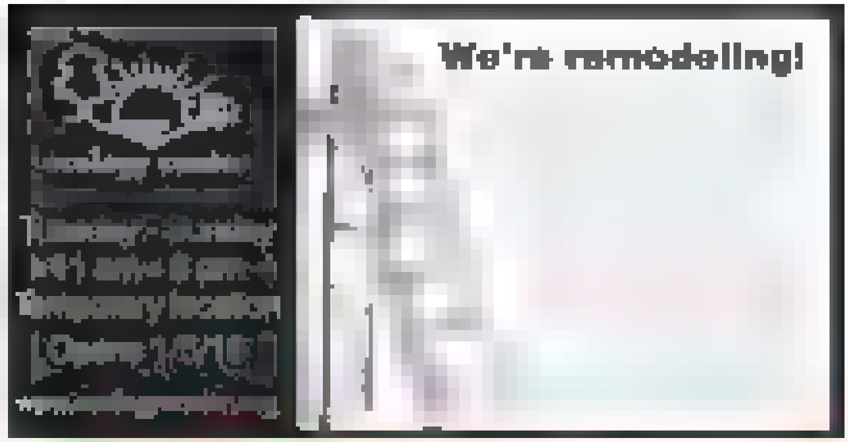
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Sushi King

[illegible]

Yume Sushi

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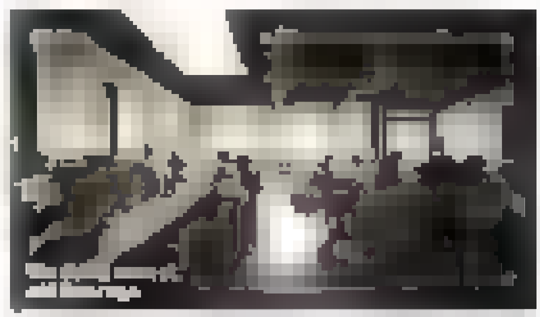








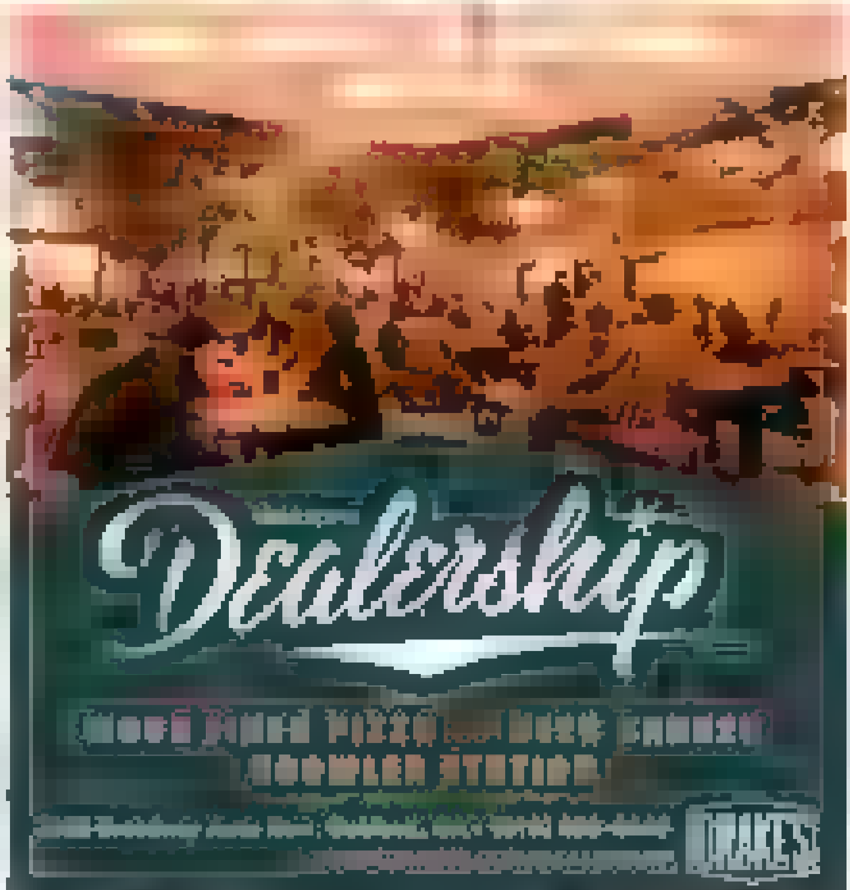
Festa dei Sette Pesci at A16 Rockridge



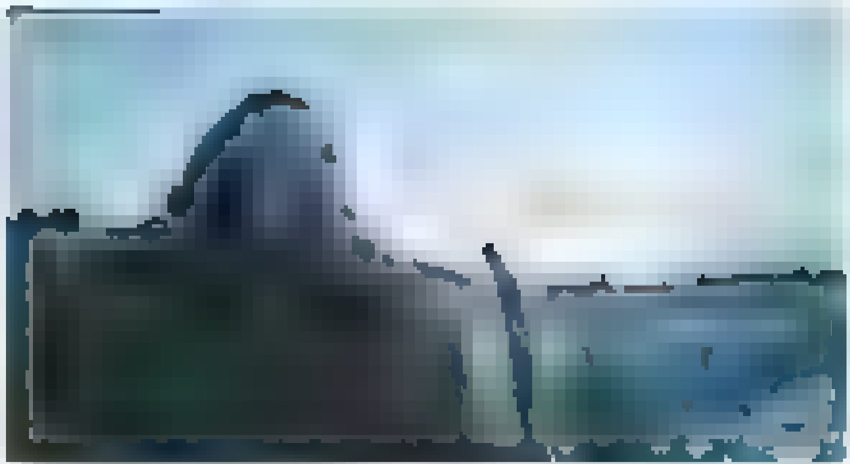

SHRIMP
& SHUCK
HAPPY HOUR
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
SPENCER'S


KAMZA
TRADITIONAL & MODERN
JAPANESE CUISINE
3288 Pierce St. A-107, Richmond
inside the Pacific East Mall
510 529 4546
KamzaSushiPalace.com


encuentro
Thank you friends for
a wonderful 2015!
Oakland · Closed Mondays
Reservations · encuentrooakland.com


Dealership
DRAKES

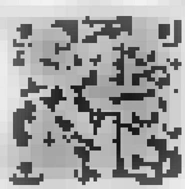
Western Omelet



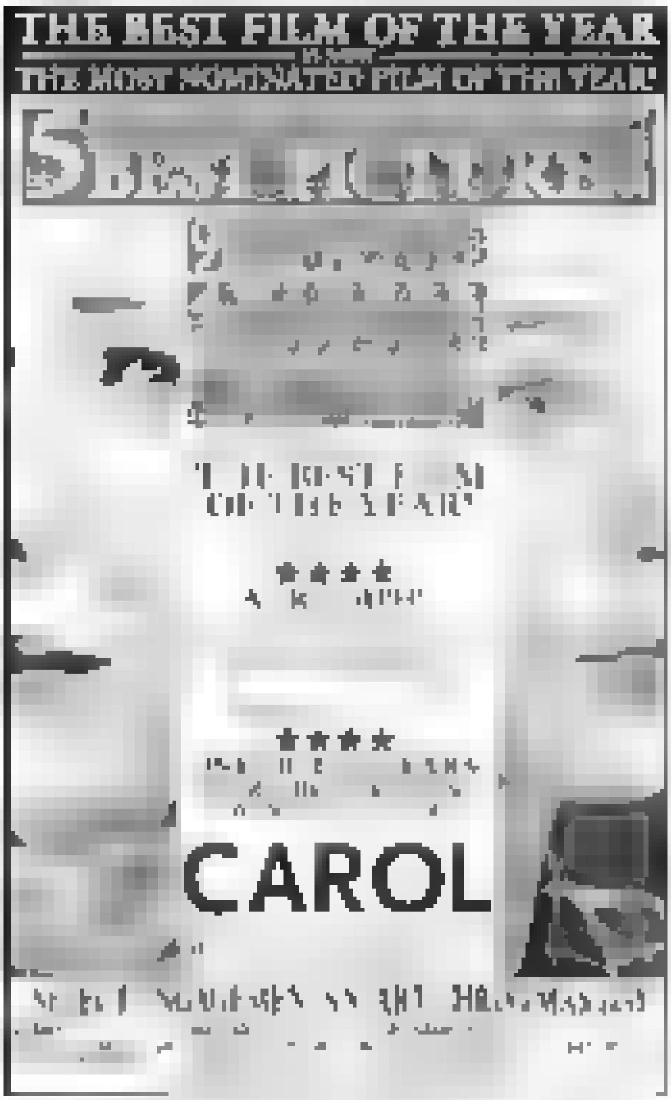
The Revenant

The Hateful Eight

Showtimes Online






THE BEST FILM OF THE YEAR
THE MOST NOMINATED FILM OF THE YEAR
CAROL


BROOKLYN


GOLDEN GLOBE
JANE FONDA

MOVIE THEATER DIRECTORY



Showtimes Online

ONE-NIGHT STANDS

Redemption Rap



Craving a Tropical Vacation

Formerly known as 8th Grader, Colby pens groovy love songs that reference traditional Caribbean and African rhythms.

By Nastia Voynovskaya



Show Details


Thursday,
Feb 11, 2016
Grand Lake Theater
Oakland; 18+
BRIEFS
2016
EROTIC SHORT FILM COMPETITION
EastBayExpress.com/BRIEFS

THURSDAY 24

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

FRIDAY 25

Gospel & Vocal

More Listings Online

Blues, Folk, & Country

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SATURDAY 26

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop



The Matches

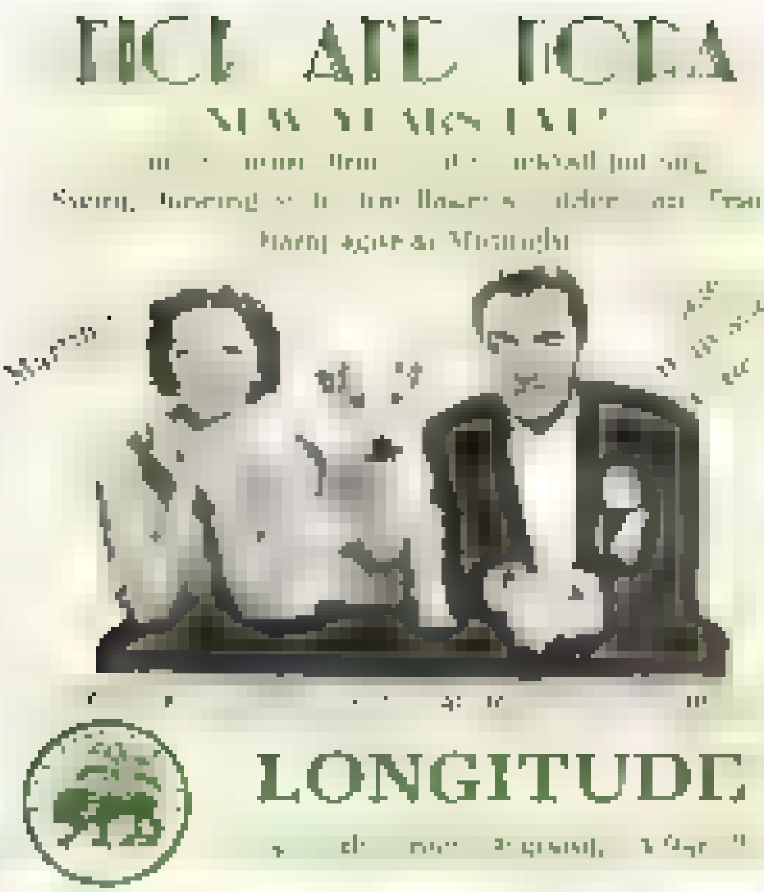
World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop


LONGITUDE




New Years Eve
Masquerade Ball
THURSDAY DEC 31ST
All night buffet
Champagne toast
Balloon Drop
Dancing, Dining
DJ AG SLICK
SPEAKEASY
Pre-Sale Tickets at
Reservations

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

SUNDAY 27

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gospel & Vocal

Jazz, Lounge,



& Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

MONDAY 28

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

TUESDAY 29

Blues, Folk, & Country

Classical & Opera

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Blues, Folk, & Country

VENUE DIRECTORY EAST BAY

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Gospel & Vocal

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

WEDNESDAY 30

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Blues, Folk, & Country

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Rock & Pop

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

DJ/DANCE

THURSDAY 24

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

FRIDAY 25

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

SATURDAY 26

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

SUNDAY 27

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

MONDAY 28

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

TUESDAY 29

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

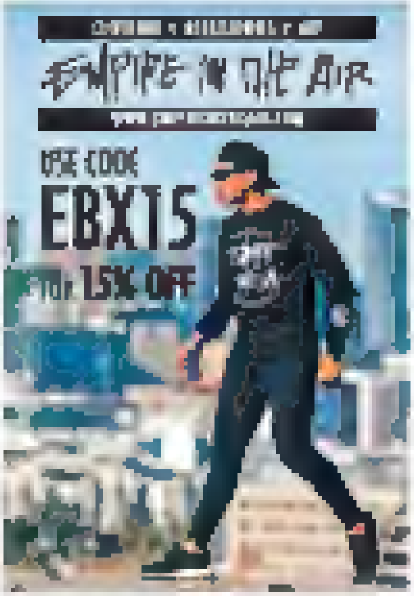
WEDNESDAY 30

EAST BAY

SAN FRANCISCO

PICK

Xmas on the Street: A Community Xmas Party for the Homeless









SAVAGE LOVE

Roughly Speaking

First off, let's stop calling them "rape fantasies."

By Dan Savage

EAST BAY EXPRESS

CLASSIFIEDS

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